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**INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL ACADEMIC EXCHANGE:  
AN EXPERIENCE OF PERSONAL AND SCIENTIFIC  
GROWTH**

**МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ КУЛЬТУРНО-АКАДЕМИЧЕСКИЙ  
ОБМЕН: ОПЫТ ЛИЧНОГО И НАУЧНОГО РОСТА**

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**Abstract:** this article has objective describe an experience of three students to integrate a program of International Mobility Academic, during the graduate in Metallurgical Engineering. It is an account of students experience at Russia, at Ural Federal University, made possible by Federal University of Ouro Preto – (UFOP) and Coordinating international affairs – (CAINT). The exchange experience, that is preview to have started on February and end on July, had possibility the acquisition of new scientific knowledge, cultural and social, including learning Business, Economic and Management. As a contribution, hope to stimulate and intensify the International Mobility specialty in the ambit of graduate, considering the it important to improvement of academic education and the excellence on superior graduate Brazilian by scientific exchange and culture on exterior.

**Keywords:** academic exchange, International Academic Mobility; grant, UFOP; UrFU; Brazil, Russia.

**Аннотация:** В этой статье описывается опыт трех студентов, участвовавших в программе международной академической мобильности в рамках специальности Metallургическое машиностроение. Это отчет о пребывании студентов в России в Уральском федеральном университете, который стал возможным благодаря

Федеральному университету Оуро Прето (UFOP) и Совету по международным делам (CAINT). Обмен, который проходил с начала февраля до конца июля, стал возможностью для приобретения новых научных, культурных и социальных знаний, в том числе знаний в области бизнеса, экономики и менеджмента. Надеемся на стимулирование специальности «Международная мобильность» на высшем уровне, в виду ее важности для улучшения академического образования и повышения уровня подготовки выпускников из Бразилии путем научного и культурного обмена.

**Ключевые слова:** академический обмен, международная академическая мобильность, грант, Федеральный университет Оу-Прету, УрФУ, Бразилия, Россия.

The student exchange has shown as a phenomenal in growth. The programs of exchange seek promotes the consolidation, expansion and science Internationalization and techno-science innovation. It is an opportunity meet new culture, politics systems and socials organization, learn, upgrade and/or know to language variants of new idioms. They offers to student advantages that go beyond learning, as psychology development, self-confidence, ripening, independently, capacity of relate, feel a world citizen.

The object this article is report the cultural experiences and social accumulated for students: Ebert Franca Pereira Lima, Patricia Dias de Freitas and Tainá Souto de Oliveira, during the Academic Mobility International a program between Brazil and Russian.

The exchange is realizing in mobility of graduate, through of a deal program between UFOP/Brazil and UrFU/Russia, agreement was making possible in the year 2016/2017. The grant of this program provides for the exemption of academic fees, without the contemplation of grant aid for housing, transportation and food expenses. However, Professor Dr. Paulo Assis requested an initial financial support from the Gorceix Foundation (an institution that assists students from the UFOP School of Mines), an initial financial support for the students participating in this mobility program.

The exchange began to thought after a Congress in Yekaterinburg in which one of the Professors of UFOP, invited to represent the Federal University of Ouro Preto in the congress, Dr. Paulo Assis, had contact for the first time with a professor of the Metallurgy area of UrFU (Ural Federal University). Together with the coordinating of International Affairs of UrFU, CAINT began the bureaucratic procedures and the necessary documentation. This type of organ is also concerned with the reception, residence, reception, orientation and offer of vacancies in the university residence, to the students of other countries. In this way,

all the necessary guidance and assistance during the period of preparation and regularization of the trip. The International Affairs coordinators of both universities offered it.

The project officially began with a request made by Professor Dr. Paulo Assis to open a basic Russian class for some students, initially Metallurgical Engineering, which he would indicate for the accomplishment of this course, thus enabling a previous contact with The Russian language and culture. The choice of the country and the university corresponds to the cultural difference, quality of its courses, teachers, facilities, geographic area and acceptability through the university selected (UrFU). In addition, one positive opinion was the consideration of an enriching opportunity for trade that favors integration, including cross-cultural integration.

From the beginning, the coordination of international affairs of the UrFU showed interest and made itself available for this agreement to be signing. Eight places were offering to Brazilian exchange students from the Federal University of Ouro Preto. In this way, six students were selected to participate in the academic mobility program and to study during a semester, starting on February and ending on June, at the Graduate School of Economics and Management and some subjects were available, most of them in English. Engineering subjects in general, including Metallurgical Engineering, are fully taught in Russian, which makes it difficult to include them in the curriculum of foreign students who do not have a sufficient level of Russian to accompany a group fluent in the language. A specific discipline of the Russian language was still offered to the students.

Due to the difficulties of the Russian language for the new students, the university has a program of assistance to the exchange students called Buddy System. This program consists of the recruitment of a Russian student who is willing to help foreign students to regularize their arrival in the country and the university. Some bureaucratic procedures are required upon arrival in the country, such as student registration, extension of your visa to stay in the country, payment of accommodation and some necessary exams, obtaining a student card that gives access to a university and Access to the dormitory. The difficulty in carrying out these procedures is mainly because the great majority of Russian citizens, including the university, communicate only with the native (Russian) language. The buddies are also responsible for the organization of various integration events and help in everyday situations that could become a difficulty in the beginning, such as opening a mobile plan, a bank account, and other things. As such, the Buddy System is an integration program that really makes it easier for new students in the country. The other positive side that must reported is the inclusion of students from other countries

to the university routine and Russian culture, also narrowing the relationship with Russian students.

Entry into a new country brings with it many expectations, doubts, insecurities and feelings such as fear of not adapting to this new culture, of not being able to open up to new experiences and friendships, of having difficulties communicating in other languages, but behind also the will to discover a new world, new customs, new people and perspectives. The arrival in the city of Yekaterinburg occurred at dawn on March 8, 2017 at Koltsovo airport, where Buddy, Ekaterina, was already waiting for the Brazilians to help them find accommodation number 5, where they would stay during the exchange period.

The number 5 dormitory is mostly for exchange students and houses students from all over the world, including students from Kazakhstan, Japan, China, Taiwan, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, England, France, Germany, South Africa, Czech Republic and many other countries, but also houses Russian students from various regions of the country. The rooms are triple and divided by the university's coordination (UrFU), between women and men separately. Every two bedrooms there is a bathroom available and that should be divided among the current residents. The accommodation also has a restaurant for the university students who are staying at a very affordable price.

Regarding Ural Federal University, it has several separate buildings according to the courses offered at the institution. Classes related to Economics and Management are taught at the Institute of Humanities and Arts, while Russian classes are at the Graduate School of Economics and Management. Both buildings are within easy reach of the dormitory number 5 students. Within the university buildings, there is also an affordable restaurant. The classes are divided into two parts that result in approximately 3 hours, being the seminar, which is a more practical class and of accomplishment of activities, and the lecture that in turn is a theoretical class. Knowledge is being acquired in the areas of management and economics, such as Public Economics and International Management, which are areas that flee from the area of knowledge and comfort acquired in the graduation of Metallurgical Engineering, which makes this academic experience even more innovative and interesting.

Under a new point of view. Improving the curriculum, to honing or learning languages, searching for specific skills, becoming competitive and seeking better job placements are the main objectives of those who are interested in doing an exchange. Only by experiencing this experience can you realize that this challenge goes far beyond that. Having a greater «understanding of the World», acceptance of differences and different cultures, adaptability, new friendships and «travel baggage» are points that are worth highlighting that make this challenge a unique experience and great value.

The first considerations to think about when doing Academic Mobility for another country are the fear of the unknown and the challenges and difficulties of adaptation. Before arriving at the place of destination one does not know very clearly, what is to come, only when one has a «reality shock» and begins to get used to the idea of what the new experience will look like. The first impression on Russia was wonderful, the receptivity and welcome on the part of the Russians and all foreign university students surprised and made the beginning much more pleasurable and motivating.

Speaking a little about Russia, it should be noted that the country is located in northern Eurasia, with 17,075,400 square miles, being the country with the largest area of the planet and the most populous. Being a country with a giant territorial extension, Russia is crisscrossed by four different climates: arctic, subarctic, temperate and subtropical. As seasons can be characterized as long and snowy winter, spring temperate, short and hot summer and rainy autumn. There are over 160 different ethnic groups and indigenous peoples in the country. Russian cuisine uses many fish, poultry, mushrooms, fruits and honey. The crops of rye, wheat, barley and corn provide the ingredients for various types of breads, pancakes and cereals, as well as for beer and vodka.

The city of Yekaterinburg is the fourth largest city in Russia. It has beautiful landscapes and monuments, but it is perceived to be a traditional city of the country some customs are little modern. You do not see much innovation and technology applied, compared to large urban centers, in part of the city's infrastructure, such as public transport that has little investment. However, the Russian city is made very cozy by the traditional culture of the country.

When it comes to academic experience, there is much to commend. Ural Federal University has a quality and reference education in the country. Both the structure and the faculty are of the highest level, which will allow for a learning of excellence in Russia. The teachers are very attentive and willing to help and make foreign students feel part of the academic routine. The university hosts several events as conferences and always invites students to participate. The academic experience in an international university has much to add to a student in general, from a professional point of view and also from a personal point of view. Leaving the comfort zone and proposing to experience a new idea of teaching, differences in methodology and points of view causes the search for knowledge, intellectual maturity and new perspectives.

Finally, direct contact with other languages and people from various parts of the world, with their own beliefs, customs and different personalities, increases the general understanding of the world and how to deal with unusual situations and difficulties. Making new friends and opening up to knowledge, in the social sense, makes people grow and develop

intellectually. Feeling welcomed by a person and cultures that you do not even know (buddies, university and other exchangers) becomes a motivation and a certainty that the opportunity for an exchange is really odd.

Final Considerations. Academic Mobility is a great opportunity to exchange information, beliefs, cultures, knowledge and above all, translates into personal and professional growth.

However, the experience of living in another country allows to know different and specific habits, opens new perspectives, and helps overcome difficulties, because the exchange student needs to adapt to the new social environment, face challenges and grow mainly in emotional strengthening. The distance from the effective ties of origin is related to vulnerability and the decision-making process.

It is necessary to be prepared, because the initiative requires a lot of patience, altruism and the ability to circumvent eventual unforeseen events; distance from family and friends, cultural variations, climate, habits and values. However, the exchange is a unique experience, mainly for the receptivity, admiration, and quality of teaching, cultures, stories and magnificent places to expand knowledge.

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## **POLITICS OF EDUCATION IN SYRIA: AN OVERVIEW**

## **ПОЛИТИКА ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ В СИРИИ: ОБЗОР**

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**Abstract:** this paper provides an insight to the educational system in Syria, the politics that shape the phases of educational process and the main characteristics of Syrian hierarchical structure of education.

**Keywords:** education, system of education, Syria, schools, universities.

**Абстракт:** В статье рассматриваются особенности системы образования в Сирии, политики, формирующей этапы учебного